

State Board of Education Meeting – Audio – 1/15/15 – Part 1 (18:25)
Opening, Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes, Formal Public Comment, Committee Reports from State Board Members, Literacy Campaign Information, NASBE Stipend Grant

Meeting called to order at 1:01 p.m. The following members of the State Board were present: Dr. Teri Quinn Gray, President; Jorge Melendez, Vice President; Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr.; G. Patrick Heffernan, Barbara B. Rutt and Terry M. Whittaker. Secretary of Education Mark Murphy was present to serve as the Executive Secretary for the State Board and the Board's Executive Director, Donna Johnson, was also present. Randall L. Hughes arrived after roll was called.

Attached is the sign in sheet of attendees for the Board meeting. The agenda was approved as amended which added the Formal Review of Family Foundations should the Department request that action by the Board. The motion was made by Dr. Whittaker and seconded by Mr. Heffernan. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Minutes from the State Board Work Session of December 18, 2014 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Melendez to approve the minutes of the work session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Mr. Heffernan abstained)

Minutes from the regular meeting of December 18, 2014 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Melendez to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mike Matthews signed up to make public comment. He is President of the Red Clay Education Association and a fifth grade teacher at Warner Elementary. He wanted to address charter schools and ESEA. He spoke on behalf of the Midtown Brandywine Association on the modification request of Freire Charter School and its location change and asked that the concerns of the Association be considered and asked if the location change should be considered a major modification. Mr. Matthews also attended the Department's ESEA flexibility meeting and asked that the comments by parents and educators be included in the Department's discussions. He asked that the Department become an advocate for our schools in its ESEA waiver. He also noted that many schools do not have the technology capacity needed for the Smarter Balanced assessment.

Board members highlighted their monthly activities including Mrs. Rutt attending the State Board workshop and also representing the State Board at the DSBA Board meeting. Mr. Melendez sent a shout out to Alana Aders from Lake Forest East Elementary and for her participation in the Positive Referrals program. Another shout out from Mr. Melendez to Morris Elementary for Fire Safety Day and for a student who passed on what he learned to his family that resulted in changing smoke detector batteries that saved his father and pets from a fire that destroyed their home.

Ms. Johnson thanked those who participated in the State Board workshop and noted that all information is available on the link. She highlighted the workshop and some of the comments made. She noted the many links that focus on what is happening in Washington on ESEA. For

the Literacy Campaign, Ms. Johnson provided a brief update on recent conversations that have focused on literacy. She also commented on the grant the State Board received last year from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) and the opportunity to apply for additional funding this year. The State Board has used the grant for its public outreach and professional development for local boards, stakeholders, parents, legislators, etc. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt that the State Board pursue the grant and asked Ms. Johnson to send in the application. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously by voice vote.

State Board of Education Meeting – Audio – 1/15/15 – Part 2 (20:14)
Secretary’s Report, Presentation by Teacher of the Year

Secretary Murphy provided his monthly report. He highlighted the expansion of the language immersion programs from three schools to 17 schools in Appoquinimink, Brandywine, Capital and Colonial for Spanish. Colonial will also offer a Chinese program. He also briefed the State Board on an Induction Mentoring Grant and provided an update on the priority schools and the MOUs with Red Clay and Christina.

The Board recognized Megan Szabo, Delaware’s Teacher of the Year. Megan is a science teacher at Postlethwait Middle School in the Caesar Rodney School District. She received the State Board’s Order of Excellence and an honorarium from the State Board. Ms. Szabo spoke about being a lead teacher for the Next Generation Science Standards and how these standards have changed her teaching so she is not teaching science but teaching her students to think like scientists. Ms. Szabo was joined by her father, John Dalfore and Derek Prillaman, Principal at Postlethwait Middle School. Congratulations were extended.

State Board of Education Meeting – Audio – 1/15/15 – Part 3 (42:45)
ESEA Flexibility Renewal Application – Overview of Guidelines and Timeline

Penny Schwinn and Ryan Reyna from the Office of Accountability presented an update on the ESEA Flexibility Renewal Application. An overview of the process, timeline and the requirements were highlighted noting that the Elementary and Secondary Education Act has not been renewed. The principles of ESEA Flexibility Renewal focus on college and career ready expectations for all students; differentiated recognition, accountability and support systems for schools and districts; supporting effective instruction and leadership and the addition of reducing duplication and unnecessary burden. Delaware was approved for an ESEA Flexibility extension in July 2014 for 2014-2015 which included amendments to address Smarter Balanced assessments. The current application is due by the end of March and is a renewal for three years. The application may request a one year “pause” in the implementation of school ratings due to the administration of the new assessment Smarter Balanced. The Department is currently conducting input through public town hall meetings and presentations to stakeholder groups.

The Board recessed from 2:22 p.m. to 2:32 p.m.

State Board of Education Meeting – Audio – 1/15/15 – Part 4 (1:08:14)
Action on Standard Setting of Smarter Assessment, DOE Regulations for Information, Charter School Items, Professional Standards Board, Appeals and Reviews, Information Items and Adjournment

Standard Setting of Smarter Assessment

Brian Touchette from the Department's Office of Assessment provided the Board with the standard setting process at last month's meeting and noted that it was an action item before the Board. The proposed scale score cut points are:

ELA/Literacy Scale Score Thresholds (scale 2000-3000)			
Grade	Level 1-to-2	Level 2-3	Level 3-to-4
3	2367	2432	2490
4	2416	2473	2533
5	2442	2502	2582
6	2457	2531	2618
7	2479	2552	2649
8	2487	2567	2668
11	2493	2583	2682
Mathematics Scale Score Thresholds (scale 2000-3000)			
Grade	Level 1-to-2	Level 2-3	Level 3-to-4
3	2381	2436	2501
4	2411	2485	2549
5	2455	2528	2579
6	2473	2552	2610
7	2484	2567	2635
8	2504	2586	2653
11	2543	2628	2718

A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to approve the proposed scores. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Department Regulations

Tina Shockley, the Department's Policy Advisor, stated that the two regulations on the agenda were for the Board's information only. The regulations pertained to the Teacher of the Year Award and the Michael Ferguson Scholarships.

Charter Schools

Jen Nagourney from the Charter School Office provided the charter items. She was joined by David Blowman, Deputy Secretary of Education and Chair of the Charter School Accountability Committee.

Dr. Gray noted that the State Board would only be taking action on the renewal of the Family Foundations charter school and the Board would not be voting on approval of performance agreement. The school will be presented with a new performance agreement later this year as the school accountability and framework changes are finalized.

Information was provided on the school as well as its performance on the academic performance framework, financial framework and organizational framework. Family Foundations, a renewing charter school submitted its renewal application on September 30, 2014. The Board reviewed the school's performance report and discussed their application. It was noted that on December 18, pursuant to the approval of the Family Foundations Academy Board of Directors to waive the 60-day time period for a decision on its renewal application, the Secretary of Education deferred the decision to allow for necessary due diligence on potentially serious allegations of financial mismanagement. Secretary Murphy noted that the co-leaders of the school had resigned along with several board members. Four board members from EastSide Charter School have agreed to serve on the Family Foundations Board and provide their experience. Also Lamont Browne has agreed to serve as school leader for both schools. Secretary Murphy asked the Board's assent to renew the school's charter with the following conditions:

- By January 30, 2015, the school shall submit clarification and documentation, to the satisfaction of the Department, of how the new FFA Board will operate FFA and EastSide Charter School;
- By January 30, 2015, the school shall submit clarification and documentation, to the satisfaction of the Department, of the identification and responsibilities of the individual or team who will operate the school on a daily basis, including who will be providing the services of the Head of School and Business Manager, respectively;
- By January 30, 2015, the school shall submit clarification and documentation, to the satisfaction of the Department, regarding the role and responsibilities of Dr. Lamont Browne as to both FFA and EastSide Charter School, including addressing potential violations of 29 Del. C., Chapter 58;
- By February 27, 2015, all Board members who have not participated in a Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement (DANA) board training must participate in such a program and provide verification of such participation;
- By February 27, 2015, all Board members must participate in training offered by the Public Integrity Commission in the area of conflicts of interest best practices and provide verification of such participation;

- The school shall respond, within three (3) business days, to the Department's requests for any financial information.

A motion was made by Mr. Hughes to approve Family Foundation Academy's renewal application. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rutt and carried 6-1 by roll call vote. (Dr. Whittaker voted no.)

Secretary Murphy also asked for the Board's consent to place Family Foundations Academy on formal review. The issues for the formal review include concerns to Organizational and Financial Performance. A motion was made by Mr. Coverdale to consent to place the school on formal review. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Ms. Nagourney also provided the monthly charter school update.

Dr. Gray asked to be excused at this time due to a previously scheduled conference call. Mr. Melendez presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Chris Kenton, Executive Director for the Professional Standards Board presented the one regulation for discussion.

Regulation 1507 Alternate Routes to Teacher Licensure and Certification Program was presented for discussion and it was noted that it was part of the five year review cycle.

Deputy Attorney General Ilona Kirshon provided the Board with an update on the current appeals and Mr. Melendez indicated the information items that were on the agenda. Board members were also asked to review their posted bios and send any revisions to the State Board Office. It was also announced that there would be a work session prior to the February State Board meeting.

There being no further business of the State Board, a motion was made by Mr. Hughes to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Mark T. Murphy, Executive Secretary
and Secretary of Education